## Auld Lang Syne

"**Auld Lang Syne** is a [Scots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scots_language) poem written by [Robert Burns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Burns) in 1788.

It is well known in many countries, especially in the English-speaking world, its traditional use being to bid farewell to the old year at the stroke of midnight. By extension, it is also sung at funerals, graduations and as a farewell or ending to other occasions.

"*For* auld lang syne", as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "for (the sake of) old times".

"In the days of auld lang syne" is the equivalent of "[Once upon a time...](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Once_upon_a_time...)" in the Scots language.

Should *old* acquaintance be forgot,  
and never brought to mind?  
Should *old* acquaintance be forgot,  
and *old* lang syne?

CHORUS:

For auld lang syne, my *dear*,  
for auld lang syne,  
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
for auld lang syne.

And there’s a hand my trusty *friend*!  
And *give me* a hand o’ thine!

We'll take a cup o’ kindness yet,  
for auld lang syne.

### At New Year

"Auld Lang Syne" is traditionally sung at the conclusion of New Year gatherings in Scotland and around the world, especially in English-speaking countries.

It is common practice that everyone joins hands with the person next to them to form a great circle around the dance floor. At the beginning of the last verse, everyone crosses their arms across their breast, so that the right hand reaches out to the neighbour on the left and vice versa. When the tune ends, everyone rushes to the middle, while still holding hands. When the circle is re-established, everyone turns under the arms to end up facing outwards with hands still joined.

In countries other than Scotland the hands are often crossed from the beginning of the song at variance with Scottish custom. The Scottish practice was demonstrated by [the Queen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_of_the_United_Kingdom) at the [Millennium Dome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Dome) celebrations for the year 2000. The English press berated her for not "properly" crossing her arms, unaware that she was correctly following the Scottish tradition.[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auld_Lang_Syne#cite_note-14)[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auld_Lang_Syne#cite_note-15)